تَجْوِيْد

The Art and Science of Reciting the Quran

What the Quran has to say about Tajweed

أَوْ زِدْ عَلَيْهِ وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلاً ﴿٤﴾

Surah 73: ayah 4:

4. Or a little more; and recite the Qur'ân (aloud) in a slow, (pleasant tone and) style .

كَذَلِكَ لِنُثَبِّتَ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ وَرَتَّلْنَاهُ تَرْتِيلاً ﴿٣٢﴾

Surah 25: ayah 32:

32. And those who disbelieve say: "Why is not the Qur'ân revealed to him all at once?" Thus (it is sent down in parts), that We may strengthen your heart thereby. And We have revealed it to you gradually, in stages. (It was revealed to the Prophet **in 23 years.).**

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَتْلُونَهُ حَقَّ تِلاَوَتِهِ أُوْلَئِكَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَمن يَكْفُرْ بِهِ فَأُوْلَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ (121)

Surah 2: ayah 121:

121. Those (who embraced Islâm from Banî Israel) to whom We gave the Book [the Taurât (Torah)] [or those (Muhammad's Peace be upon him companions) to whom We have given the Book (the Qur'ân)] recite it (i.e. obey its orders and follow its teachings) as it should be recited (i.e. followed), they are the ones that believe therein. And whoso disbelieves in it (the Qur'ân), those are they who are the losers. (*Tafsir Al-Qurtubî.* Vol. 2, Page 95).

Ibn Masood said by he whom my soul is in his hand: حَقَّ تِلاَوَتِه means he allows the halal in it and forbids the haram in it and reads it as it was revealed. {Ibn Kathir}

Ask yourself:

If we truly want to recite the Quran as it was revealed to the rasool, from the angel, directly from الله Allah, then will we not make the utmost effort to learn and use all the rules of tajweed?

تَجْوِيْد

↓

جَوَّدَ

(verb) – to make better

تَجْوِيْد

Tajweed (n) – Is to make our pronunciation of the Quran better, meaning perfect, meaning as it was revealed.

تَجْوِيْد Tajweed is broken into 4 PARTs:

- **(1) P**honetics
- (2) **A**ccents
- (3) **R**hythm
- (4) **T**emperament

Phonetics

- Phonetics is considered to be the study of the 29 Arabic letters and their sounds.
- There are 29 letters in the Arabic alphabet:

ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ
ر ز س ش ص ض ط
ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م
ن ه و ء ي

2 Characteristics That Each Letter *MUST* have:

- (1) Each letter is either **heavy**: pronounced with an "O" shaped mouth, or **light**: pronounced with an open mouth.
- (2) Each letter has an address: a place where the sound of the letter originates.

*****If you understand the difference between heavy letters and light letters, their places of pronunciation become easier to use.**

<u>Heavy vs. Light</u>

- <u>Heavy letters</u> are defined as letters that are pronounced by closing your mouth, making an “O” shape with your mouth and filling it with air. (restricting the air)
- The following 7 letters are always heavy:

خ غ ظ ط ض ص ق

****Even if you don’t know the places of pronunciation of these letters, you should at least know the shape of your mouth when saying them.*

Heavy vs. Light

- Light letters are defined as letters that are pronounced by opening your mouth and letting the air out.
- Everything other than those defined as heavy are light.

اب ت ث ج د ذ ز س ش ع ف ك م ن ه و ء ي

****You don’t need to remember all of these letters separately, just remember that everything is light.*

Exceptions to Heavy vs. Light

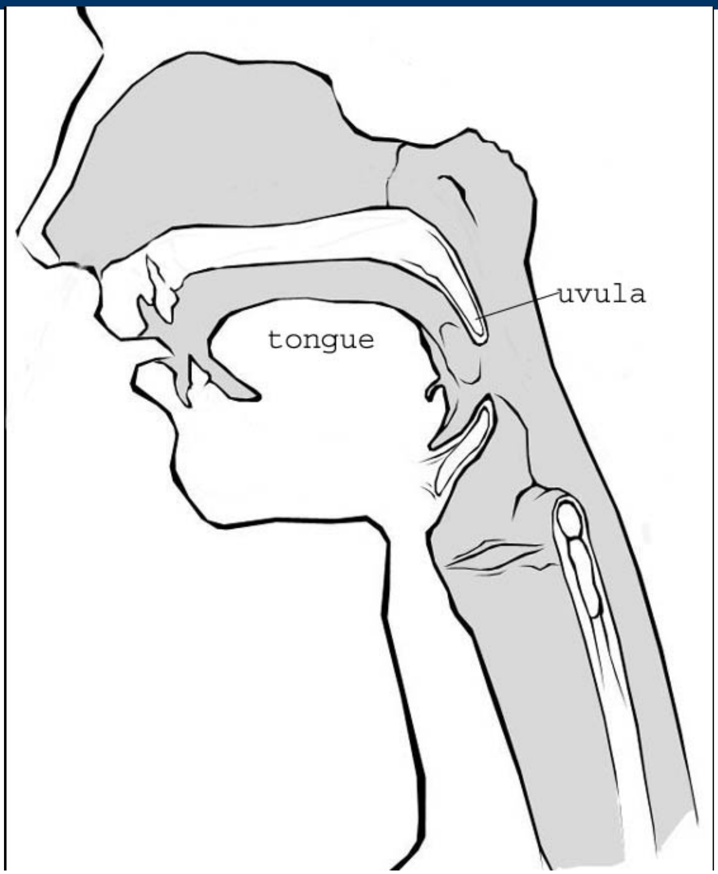
ل and ر are sometimes light and sometimes heavy.

(Address): مَخَارِج

- Place of pronunciation (address).

- All of these places of pronunciation fit between the 1st part of the throat and the nasal cavity.

Take a Closer Look:



All letters of the Arabic alphabet are pronounced from the first part of the throat to the nasal cavity

Letters of the Throat:

These letters, if said properly, originate from your throat only:

3rd Closest to your mouth	خ غ *Scratch Gargling	
2nd Middle	ح ع *Joker Smile Bite an apple	
1st Bottom; closest to the chest cavity	ه ء ا *Look up	

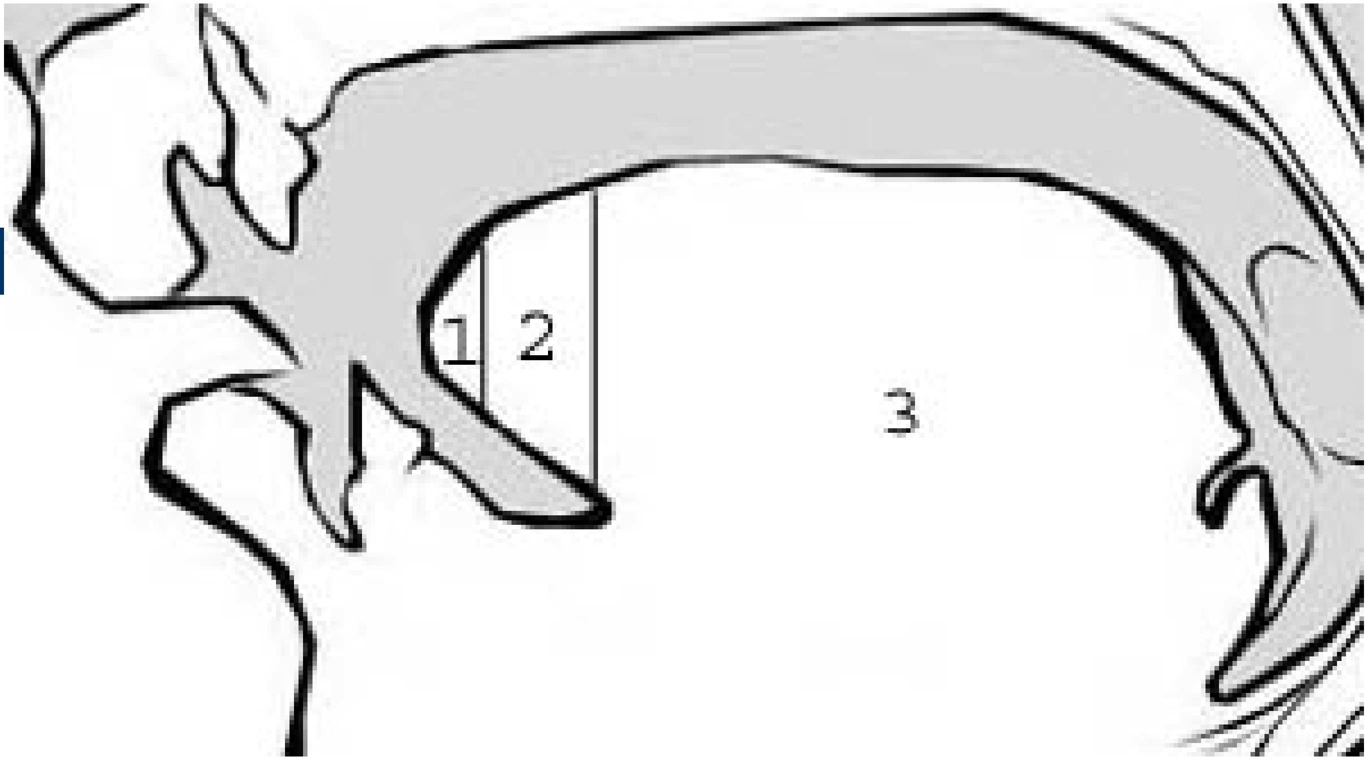
Letters of the Lips:

- When pronouncing these letters, your lips touch: ب و ف م

**Keep in mind, if your lips are allowed to touch while pronouncing these letters, then, by definition, they cannot touch when pronouncing other letters. For example, it is common mistake for people to touch their lips when saying ط ض ص(h).*

Letters of the Mouth:

- If you look at the diagram you will find the Uvula (the punching bag) at the back of the mouth in between the tonsils and above the throat. Behind the Uvula the letter ق**(H)** is pronounced and in front of the uvula ك**(L)** is pronounced.
- Next, we come to the front of the mouth. Please take a look at the diagram label below. You will notice we are focusing on the top two teeth, the bottom teeth and the tongue which is broken into three parts. Please familiarize yourself with these areas.



The three parts of the tongue can be identified as: The very tip of the tongue (labeled 1), the second part of the tongue, a little more then double the tip (labeled 2) and either the left or right side located at the rear of the tongue (labeled 3). With this diagram you find the place of Pronunciation for 10 letters:

- 3rd part of the tongue between right or left molar without moving the tip of the tongue: ض
- 2nd part of the tongue, behind the bottom teeth: ص (Be sure your tongue is not bending.)
- 2nd part of the tongue, behind the top teeth: ط
- 2nd part of the tongue, at the edge of top teeth: ظ
- The top and bottom teeth together:ز
- The tip of the tongue, behind the top teeth: ت,د
- The tip of the tongue, at the edge of the top teeth: ذ, ث
- The tip of the tongue, behind the bottom teeth: س
- Close your back teeth: ش

Take a Glance at All the Places of Pronunciation:

- 1st part of the throat ا ء ه
- 2nd part of the throatع ح
- 3rd part of the throat غ خ
- Behind uvula ق
- In front of uvula ك
- 3rd part of the tongue between right or left molar without moving the tip of the tongue ض
- 2nd part of tongue, behind bottom teeth ص

Places of Pronunciation continued…

- 2nd part of tongue, behind top teeth ط
- 2nd part of tongue, edge of top teeth ظ
- Top and bottom teeth together ز
- Tip of tongue, behind top teeth ت د
- Tip of tongue, edge of top teethث ذ
- Tip of tongue, behind bottom teeth س
- Close back teethش
- Letters of the lipsم و ب ف

As discussed earlier the letters ل and ر are sometimes pronounced heavy and sometimes light. The following are the corresponding rules for each.

The Rules of لِ :

- ل is *always* light at face value.
- Only in the word "الله", is ل sometimes heavy, and sometimes light. The ل we are discussing is the one in the middle with a on it.
- When the letter before the ل in الله has : َ (*Line on top*) or ُ(*backwards e*), then the ل in الله is HEAVY.
- When the letter before the ل in الله has a:

(*Line on the bottom*), then the ل in الله is LIGHT.

A Few Examples…

يُخَادِعُونَ اللّه

فَزَادَهُمُ اللّه

ذَهَبَ اللّه

إِنَّ اللَّه

قُلِ اللّه

Now for the Confusing Part…that is if you want it to be.

The Rules of ر are numerous and if not explained correctly they can be slightly confusing. So, do your best to complete the lessons as they are being taught. Do not try to take short cuts, because the simplest method is presented below.

The Different Forms of ر :

There are 10-12 forms of ر:

- ر with a line on top
- ر with a line on the bottom
- ر with a backwards e
- ر with with line on top and backwards e
- ر with a with a line on the bottom
- ر with a connect and the letter before has a line on top or a backward e
- ر with a connect and the letter before it has a line on the bottom.
- ر with a connect and the letter before it has a connect.
- ر with N-S on top including upside down e
- ر with a N-S on the bottom.
- ر with E-W

The Rules of ر :

- At face value, ر is heavy.
- When ر has anything on top of it such as: the line on top or the backwards e, then it is heavy.
- When ر has something underneath it such as: the line on the bottom, then it is light.
- When ر has a ْ (*connect*), look to the letter before it: **-**If the letter before ر with ْ(connect) ُ َ s a , then it is HEAVY
- -If the letter before ر with ْ (connect) has a ِ (line on the bottom) then it is LIGHT
- Connect and hold doesn’t affect the ر
- If the letter before the ر with ْ ALSO has a ْ then simply look to the letter before that. If a letter isn’t speaking to you then just move to the next letter.

The Golden Rule:

So, the Golden Rule of ر is, when ر has something on top it's heavy and when ر has something on the bottom it's light.

Examples.



Transitions

- Transitions from heavy to light and from light to heavy: each letter carries it's own identity
- If a letter is heavy and the next is light, it doesn't carry over.
- Think about it. If you stand next to a heavy person or a skinny person it will never affect the way you are. The same applies for the letters.
- Be mindful of the pronunciations and watch the shape of your mouth in the beginning. If it feels funny it is most likely correct.

Try A Few Examples:

رَزَقْنَاهُمْ	يَخْدَعُونَ
وَتَرَكَهُمْ	يُصْرَفْ
خَتَمَ اللّه	أَبْصَارِهِم

Accents

- Accents embellish and elongate the sounds of letters.
- Before beginning it is important to distinguish between the name of a letter and the sound that it makes:

  ie: the letter ر has a name: Raa and it makes a sound: rrrr

- When discussing accents I will be calling your attention to the sound a letter makes or I may be asking you to take a complete sound and connect it to the next sound. (When the sound a letter makes is added to the accent it makes a complete sound.)
- The sound of the letter ر + an accent = a complete sound.

Basic Accents

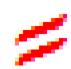
ُ َ

ِ

- Each of the accents is held for one “count”. The Arabic term for this is called a حَرَكَات and is equivalent to a second.

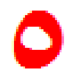
Double Accents





- These are considered double accents. When pronouncing these accents it is just like the basic three accents but with an N sound at the end respectively; un, in oon.

Connect



- This means that you must *connect* the complete sound of the previous letter with the letter that has this symbol.

Connect and Hold



- This accent means that you must *connect and hold.* It is the strongest accent in that if it follows most other accents you cancel at least some part of the accent that comes right before this symbol.

A Few Examples

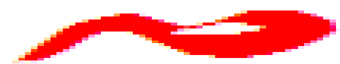
مَنْ يَقُوْلُ

مِمَّا

- The ن will get canceled in this case because the ◌ّ is stronger than the ◌ْ. You will be connecting the complete sound before the ◌ّ with the letter that has the ◌ّ and then hold the sound of that connection.

- You take the complete sound of م with ◌ِ and you connect it to the sound of the م with the ◌ّ. Now hold that connection like pressing your fingers together.

<u>The Head of ص</u>



- This accent is found in all Uthmani script Mus-haf. It is called the “Head of ص”. It does however look like a fish head. So, as a rule of thumb, you catch a fish then chop the head off. Therefore, when you see this symbol on a letter, you do not pronounce it, which means that you cancel the letter.

Now that you have a basic understanding of some of the accents you will need to be able to differentiate between stretching and holding before you can dive into or elongation.

Stretching vs. Holding

جَآءَ

- Here you are stretching the sound of the ج, like counting seconds with your fingers.

إِنَّ

- Here you are holding the sound of the ا and the ن together, like pressing your fingers together.

A Few More Examples…

جَآنَّ

- Here you will stretch the ج and then, without breaking your breath, hold the sound between the ج and ن. This may sound a little more complicated than it actually is. Try it and you will see. Start by counting 3 seconds on your fingers for the complete ج sound and then press your fingers together for the ج to ن hold.

Just A Few More…

جَآءَ   إِنَّ   جَآنَّ

- Most people don’t have the ability to make this differentiation, let alone be able to explain it to others. Let’s take some time to read these a few times and grasp the difference.

The Rules of Elongation

- The rules of elongation help students understand how long to stretch a complete sound. Moreover, it also discusses how much *not* to stretch.
- As explained earlier, most accents are stretched for one count.

***It is just as important *not* to stretch as it is to do so when necessary.

An example of the effects on the meaning when stretching is out of place

اللّه اكبـر

- A side note: The Arabic term for counts is حَرَكَات . It is equivalent to a second. Why we don’t call it seconds or beats alone without using the word حَرَكَات is to protect the Quran from being integrated or even compared to music, which we do find amongst some misguided groups.

The Most Basic Approach to the Rules of Elongation

- • Accents (a.k.a. *vowels*) are the sounds on each letter and how long they are held. When letters need to be stretched, the rules of elongation need to be understood.
- • Rule one of Elongation is:

Rule One of Elongation:

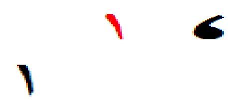
ا followed by ◌َ	All Equal 2 حَرَكَات (Counts).
ي followed by ◌ِ	
و followed by ◌ُ	وُ وْ اَ ا يِ يْ

Other Types of مَدْ

- If you look at all the signs of elongation you will find they fit in one of two categories: They run from
- 1. East to west
- 2. North to South

North to South

- If you look at the following signs of elongation you will notice they all point ***north to south:***



- These are all recited for 2 counts.

East to West

- Next if you look at these other signs you will see they point East to West.



- All of these are recited for 3-5 counts.
- A few examples:

الٓمٓ ①　　　إِذَا جَآءَ

How do you know if it should be stretched for 3, 4, or 5???

- An east to west on any letter will be stretched for 3 counts. مَشَآ
- An east to west followed by a ء will be stretched for 4 counts. مَشَآءَ
- An east to west on a miracle letter will be stretched for 5 counts. قٓ
- Any مَدْ sign that looks like this: وَأُوْلَٰٓئِكَ

you have the liberty to stretch anywhere between 3-5 counts.

What is a “Miracle Letter”?

- Letters to which only Allah (SWT) knows the meaning.
- They come only at the beginning of a سُورە Surah.
- Hold them for *at least* 5 حَرَكَات .

مَد لَيِّ

We know that this type of مَدْ is present whenever there's a ◌َ followed by a و or ي with ◌ْ. In this case, we stretch for 2 counts.

For Example: يَوْم خَيْرًا

اَوْ اَيْ

Rhythm

The study of what happens to phonetics when certain accents are placed on them.

قلقله: "The Bouncing Sound"

- This rule of rhythm involves 5 letters.
- When any of these five letters have a ْ (*connect*), they "bounce"

ق ط ب ج د

- Examples: قَدْ اَجْ بَطْ

An Important Reminder

- Be mindful of what type of transition will take place. Just as we covered in the last rule of Phonetics, heavy and light letters don't effect each others pronunciation. The same applies here.
- When you are faced with a word like بَطْ
- Be mindful to apply the proper heavy to light transition, even when connecting two sounds. Phonetics makes up 60% of تَجْوِيْد Tajweed.

TNT vs. TT (اخفاء / اظهار)

- There are some unique sounds that are produced when reciting the Quran that are not found in the English language.
- You may notice when certain reciters of the Quran read نْ , or double accents, there are different pronunciations of these accents at different times.
- What we will study next is how to differentiate these rules. If you don’t notice a difference in the sound in the beginning, then don’t be overly concerned.

Let’s Think About How We Use Our Tongues

- Sometimes we aren’t aware of where our tongue is touching and how much pressure we are applying.
- A great exercise is to practice saying the letter N, L, and R. Be conscious of where your tongue is touching, the top of your mouth right, above your top teeth.
- Say it again, but this time leave your tongue up there, press it where it is, Nnnnnnnn, Lllllllll and Rrrrrrrrrr.
- Now, try to say N without touching your tongue. To make it easier, try making a nasal sound, vibrating in your nose.

What Do We Need to Know to Understand the TNT and TT Sounds?

- First understand you *can* control your tongue.
- You can make you tongue float verses touching.
- When you float your tongue it makes a nasal sound and when you touch it to the roof of your mouth it doesn't.

(Long version) Rules for نْ or ً ٍ ٌ

- When ن has a ْ (*connect*) and is followed by a letter of the throat (خ غ ح ع ه ء ا) **T**ongue **T**ouches (TT), meaning there is clarity ni the N sound. The same rule applies for ٌ ٍ ً (*tanwin*)

  When ن has a ْ and is followed by ANY other letter than the letters of the throat: your **T**ongue does **N**ot **T**ouch (TNT), meaning there is concealment.
- The same rule applies for ٌ ٍ ً (*tanwin*).

(يرملون)

ي ر م ل و ن

- Whenever you see ن with a ْ (*connect*) or ٌ ٍ ً followed directly by ANY of the 6 letters of ي ر م ل و ن , a ّ (*connect and hold*) is placed on top of that ي ر م ل و ن letter.
- *Connect and hold eats connect*: a ّ is stronger than connect and will override it; therefore, the ن sound will not be heard here – but rather, a joining and connecting of the يرملون letters.

The Easy Approach to the Rules of TNT & TT

- **If نْ or ٌ ٍ ً are followed by:**

  1. The letters of the throat ح ع ه ء ا غ خ : then **T**ongue **T**ouch. (TT) Your Tongue will touch the roof of your mouth.

  Ex:

  مَنْ آمَنَ

Rules of TNT & TT (continued…)

2. Any letter that isn't in the throat, then **T**ongue does **N**ot **T**ouches. TNT. يُنْفِقُونَ

3. Any letter that makes up يَرْمَلُوْن (which are the letters ن و ل م ر ي) then add a ّ to the letter which applies.

****In the Uthmani Script you may not find a* ّ *. So, whether there is a* ّ *(connect and hold) or not, you should put one there.*

غنه Ghunna: Strong Nasal

ن and م demand some special attention when ّ is placed on them. Every time you see a ّ on a ن or م you need to make a strong nasal sound. That is, you will vibrate the sound within your nasal cavity to produce the غنه **Ghunna** sound.

For example:

مِمَّا

So, Is That TNT or TT?

- Because you just covered the rules of TT and TNT you are concerned about the placement of your tongue. Do not get confused with the placement of your tongue for Ghunna because where ever the place of pronunciation is for the letter you are saying that is where your tongue is placed.

How Long Should I Hold the غنه Ghunna?

- As with any ّ , hold for two counts. It is just like pressing your fingers together, easier than trying to count the hold on your fingers.

مْ followed by the letter ب

- When م is followed by the letter ب you hold the sound of the م for 2 counts.

عَلَيۡهِم بِسُلۡطَٰنٍ

Baby م

- You might see a baby ۘم placed over a letter. You are being asked to add the ۘم sound to the letter.

رَجۡمَۢا بِٱلۡغَيۡبِ

The Word انا

- When reading the word انا it will be pronounced ان

وَلَآ أَنَاْ عَابِدٌ –

0 on ا

- When there is a zero on an ا you cancel it.
- وَلاتَقُولَنَّ لِشَاْىْءٍ

Sharp ا

- When ا has a ْ on it, it makes the sound of the connected letter sharp.

- وَلَمُلِئْت
- بَأْس

هْ Stereo sound

- When ه has a ◌ْ connect it makes a stereo sound.

- أَصْحَٰبَ ٱلْكَهْفِ

Temperament

وَقْف

The "Punctuation" of the Quran

Temperament

- The primary goal of temperament is to help the reader know when to stop or when not to stop.
- Because there are several scripts of the Quran, temperament varies from one to another.
- Be mindful of signs that demand your stop as they may change the meaning of what you read.

Rules for stopping.

- When you stop anywhere in the Quran, place a ْ connect on the last letter.

ٱلْعَٰلَمِينَ ۝٢

Rules for stopping.

- When ever you are stopping on a letter that has Two lines on top ◌ً , cancel one ◌َ line on top.

- مِن قَبۡلُ سَمِيًّا ۝٧

The signs to know.

- Below are most of the signs you will see in the قُرْءَان. They have been gathered from many different scripts. If you see a sign you have not seen before, it may not be in the script you read.
- Some of the signs have very similar rules.

Rules For Stopping

- ج You are allowed to stop here. But if you don't that's ok too.
- ز You should try not to stop here.
- ص If you are tired and need to stop you can. But it is better to continue.

Rules of Stopping

- صلى It is preferred to continue reciting without stopping.
- ق You can stop here.
- قفYou need to stop here.
- س Make a short pause without breaking your breath.
- سكتةthis means you should have a longer pause without breaking you breath.

Rules of Stopping.

- س Make a short pause without breaking your breath.
- سكتةthis means you should have a longer pause without breaking you breath.

مِن مَّرۡقَدِنَاۜ هَـٰذَا •

Rules For Stopping (continued…)

- طYou must pause here. Breath and recitation both should pause.
- مYou must stop. If you don’t pause here the meaning will change.
- صلYou can stop here or pause here. Both are permissible.
- قلاYou shouldn’t pause here. It’s better to continue.
- لا You cannot pause here.

Rules for stopping.

- مع مع If you see these signs close to one another and you stop at one you can't stop at the other or it will have an incomplete meaning. These signs can also be seen as three dots, one above two.
- لارَيْبَ ۛ فِيهِ ۛ

It was my honor.

May ﷲ Give Us the Ability to Implement What We Have Learned and Make Us Among Those Who Fulfill the Right of the Quran.